

Swissair's operations in first half of 1958

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"Last but not least, I would like to remind you that the badges which to-day we wear so proudly as a symbol of our common allegiance, serve for the benefit of needy mothers. These badges are the symbol of our attachment to the Mother Country, our respect for motherhood and hence our faith in the future. Let us cherish them for what they represent: the intimate source of our moral strength and our ultimate confidence in this earthly life."

Loud applause followed the Ambassador's oration, and then came the reading — this year in Italian — of the Swiss Pact, by Mr. P. Jacomelli, President of the Union Ticinese.

From year to year it becomes more difficult to recruit local talent to take part in the programme — which is to be regretted, as one would wish, apart from accordion playing and yodelling to hear some music of a different kind, as for instance, last year, when Miss Hazel Schmid introduced herself as a capable Lieder singer.

To supplement the programme a Swiss sound and coloured film was shown, its features taking the audience to the German, French and Italian speaking parts of our country. Many of the lovely views, especially from the mountain regions, were much applauded.

The film, although it was, as a matter of fact, a propaganda film for a British motor-car manufacturing concern, was much enjoyed. Perhaps another time the organisers can find a different film, if possible one with a story attached to it.

The Swiss Accordion Club having now received reinforcement made a second appearance with Master Jean Michel Gandon as soloist. He is no stranger to the Colony, and each time we hear him we like him better. His sympathetic clear voice and his rendering of yodelling songs, with accompaniment of his father, was vociferously cheered, and the audience asked for "more and more". The accordionists played "Ländlers" and polkas with their usual efficiency.

The next item on the programme brought the "Corale" of the Unione Ticinese on to the stage. They, too, are old and faithful friends of the Swiss community. What would we do without them! Attired in the decorative costumes of their canton, they rendered a number of folk-songs belonging to the sunny canton of Ticino, songs which brought back to many of us happy memories of this little gem beyond the Gotthard. Each item, sung melodiously and with enthusiasm, was acknowledged with almost riotous applause.

Then the entire audience sang, upstanding, two verses of the "Schweizerpsalm", "Trittst im Morgenrot daher, seh' ich dich im Strahlenmeer".

The first part of the programme was concluded with a short address by the President of the 1st of August committee, Mr. F. Streit, who read out two telegrams which had been received, one from Dr. Th. Holenstein, President of the Swiss Confederation, con-

vaying the greetings of the Federal Council, and one from Mr. E. Hofstetter, Swiss Consul at Balloch, sending patriotic greetings on behalf of the Swiss societies in Scotland. These messages were much appreciated by the company. He warmly thanked the various artistes who had taken part in the programme, not forgetting those of our compatriots who by their generosity have made it possible for this celebration to take place.

Mr. Streit voiced his pleasure that once again the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Daeniker had honoured the national celebration with their presence, and that the Deputy Mayor of Wimbledon had joined us on this festive occasion.

The second part of the evening was entirely reserved for dancing. Hundreds of happy couples, young and old, joined in and vigorously turned and twisted to the sounds of the energetic dance band. Judging by their happy faces and shining eyes they seemed to have enjoyed "every bit of it".

At 1 a.m. the National Anthem was played, and another of our National Day celebrations came to its close. It was an enjoyable and successful evening for which the organisers, especially Messrs. F. Streit, A. Gandon, P. Jacomelli, and Miss S. Morosi (the untiring Hon. Secretary of the 1st of August committee), are to be congratulated.

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SWISSAIR'S OPERATIONS IN FIRST HALF OF 1958.

Swissair's traffic results for the first six months of 1958 show a 35 per cent increase in offered capacity over the same period a year previously. Tonne-kilometres offered totalled 97,400,755 compared with 72,414,187. Revenue tonne-kilometres performed rose by 25 per cent, from 45,058,060 to 56,111,256; of this, passenger transport accounted for 34,922,964 tkm (22 per cent up on 1957), air freight for 9,216,664 tkm (36 per cent up) and mail for 3,036,451 tkm (31 per cent up).

Distance flown rose to 15,900,655 kilometres from 12,964,825 in the first half of 1957.

The average load factor on the scheduled services was 57.6 per cent, against 62.2 per cent a year earlier.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, August 29th 1958. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: X. Speckert, F. B. Tschudy, Mrs. H. C. Cownie, C. Pulfer, Jules Ammann, J. D. Bernoulli, G. Godet, R. de Watterville, J. Clement, E. Eha, G. Bruschweiler, James Sieber.

The Editor will be abroad until September 1st, 1958.

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